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April 1, 2016

Cypress Creek Sewer Break

The Division of Public Works is actively working on making emergency repairs to a sewer break located in Cypress Creek. As a result of the recent heavy rain events, a major sanitary sewer line transporting wastewater to the TE Maxson Wastewater Treatment Plant was damaged. At approximately 3:00PM Thursday, a Public Works engineer discovered the broken 96-inch sewer line crossing South Cypress Creek. The City activated its Emergency Response Plan and steps were immediately taken to begin bypassing the wastewater around the damaged sewer line.

Public Works crews and the contractor estimate the time to construct a bypass around the damaged section of line is estimated to be 3-4 days. The contractor performing the bypass will work 24 hours a day until the bypass is in place. City crews will proceed on an emergency basis to repair this significant portion of infrastructure. Engineering design activities are underway for the replacement of the sewer line. Construction could take 3-4 months to replace the damaged sewer line with an estimated repair cost of \$8-10 million.

The location of the incident is Cypress Creek west of Paul Lowery Road between the road and McKellar Lake. Emergency work is already underway to contain sewage from the break. Sewer services to homes and businesses in this area have not, and will not be affected.

The Division of Public Works is following all required emergency response procedures to protect the water supply and the public. City crews will place warning signs in this area, advising the public to avoid contact with the creek as a result of the release of wastewater overflows. While there is no immediate threat to public health or safety, the public is asked to heed the signs and avoid contact with the affected areas.

We want to assure residents that the City of Memphis and its contractor crews will be working around the clock until the sewer line is repaired. While we believe the flow of water in Cypress will dilute the sewage enough that it will not be harmful, we will refer to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to respond to any environmental questions.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2016

CONTACT: Ursula Madden
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Update: Cypress Creek Sewer Break

TWRA and Shelby County Health Department Recommend Closing Boat Ramp to McKellar Lake

MEMPHIS, TN – Out of an abundance of caution, the City of Memphis has closed the boat ramp at the Riverside Park Marina, 1875 McKellar Drive, which allows access to McKellar Lake until further notice. The closure comes at the recommendation of The Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA) and the Shelby County Health Department. In addition, city crews have increased signage along Cypress Creek and McKellar Lake to discourage any fishing in those bodies of water. While there is no immediate threat to public health or safety, the public is asked to heed the signs and avoid contact with affected areas.

Meanwhile, public works crews and our contractor continue to work around the clock to construct a bypass, after a major sewer line transporting wastewater to the TE Maxson Wastewater Treatment Plant was damaged, Thursday. We now estimate that a bypass will be in place Wednesday that will stop the waste from spilling into Cypress Creek.

The division of Public Works is following all required emergency response procedures to protect the public. This incident has not harmed our drinking water. The city will continue to work alongside the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, TWRA, Shelby County Health Department and Shelby County EMA until this situation is resolved.

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JIM STRICKLAND
MAYOR

DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: URSULA MADDEN
CHIEF COMMUNICATION OFFICER
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DATE: April 6, 2016

**THE CITY OF MEMPHIS & AGENCY PARTNERS
TO PROVIDE UPDATE ANNOUNCEMENTS
CONCERNING CYPRESS CREEK SEWER BREAK**

- WHO:** City of Memphis Division of Public Works
City of Memphis Fire Department
Shelby County Health Department
Shelby County Office of Preparedness
Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
Tennessee Emergency Management Agency
Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency
U.S. Coast Guard
- WHERE:** Shelby County Office of Preparedness
1075 Mullins Station Rd. Building C
- WHAT:** The City of Memphis will host a media conference providing updates regarding bypassing wastewater around the damaged sewer line. Public works crews and our contractor continue to work around the clock to complete the bypass, after a major sewer line transporting wastewater to the TE Maxson Wastewater Treatment Plant was damaged, Thursday. We will provide additional updates to the media and the public this afternoon.
- WHEN:** April 6, 2016
Briefing - 4:45pm
Press Conference-5:00 pm

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2016

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Wastewater Spill Stopped

Bypass is up and running with the installation taking place in less than one week.

The Division of Public Works made a remarkable breakthrough to stop the flow of wastewater in Cypress Creek. The bypass is up and running, carrying sewage around the broken sewer pipe and will remain in operation, with pumps running 24 hours a day. The city is moving to the next phase of the project which is the permeant repair of the collapsed line.

Next steps include:

*Permanent repair of the pipe.

*Tennessee Department Environment and Conservation will continue to test the water twice per week.

*The City Of Memphis will bring in an environmental expert to advise our Public Works Director on cleaning up efforts.

*We will continue to cooperate with our federal, state and local partners, the Coast Guard, TDEC, TWRA, Shelby County Health Department, Office of Preparedness, Memphis Police and Memphis Fire.

We cannot stress enough how important it is for people NOT to have contact with the water until further notice. Shelby County Health officials are warning people to avoid recreational activities and touching or fishing in Cypress Creek or McKellar Lake. Tests show levels of E. coli up to 300 times the recreational criteria for streams and up to 580 times the level for lakes. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation issued a temporary water contact advisory for the lake and creek, and sampling and tests will continue

"Now that the spill is stopped, our next focus will be to repair the damage pipe and work with the state to evaluate and collaborate on any long term remediation needs," said Mayor Jim Strickland.

The cost for this operation and the repairs is 100% sewer funded. No general funds will be used. We expect the permeant fix to be completed in 3-4 months.

Working to improve the quality of life of all Memphians, every day.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2016

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Crews continue to battle wastewater leak at Cypress Creek

Bypass remains intact—crews addressing minor leak from other temporary plugs installed.

After stopping a massive wastewater spill from a broken 96 inch pipe into south Cypress Creek and nearby McKellar Lake, crews began working on a much smaller leak from an a plug installed in an older pipe that was detected by personnel on the scene.

The 60 inch pipe is an older part of the wastewater system but was taken out of service when the newer 96 inch pipe was installed.

Crews placed a plug in the 60 inch pipe line early on as part of the bypass operation, however the plug did not seal properly and began to leak, releasing an estimated 1000 gallons of wastewater per day.

The new leak was discovered after water levels in Cypress Creek dropped. Personnel worked overnight to address the leak and installed a concrete plug Friday morning to permanently seal the 60 inch pipe and ensure no future leaks.

While this second leak was a minor temporary setback, this did not affect the bypass of the 96 inch pipe that had stopped the major wastewater spill into the creek. The Public Works department remains focused on the next phase of operations which is to repair the main pipe.

We cannot stress enough how important it is for people NOT to have contact with the water until further notice. The Shelby County Health Department warns E. coli levels remain too high for recreational use.

The cost of repairs is funded by sewer fees.

Next steps include:

- Permanent repair of the pipe.
- Tennessee Department Environment and Conservation will continue to test the water twice per week.
- The City Of Memphis will bring in an environmental expert to advise our Public Works Director on cleaning up efforts.
- We will continue to cooperate with our federal, state and local partners, the Coast Guard, TDEC, TWRA, Shelby County Health Department, Office of Preparedness, Memphis Police and Memphis Fire.
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